

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

450671

History

In July 1952, the Subcommittee on Requirements and Facilities for Collation of the Economic Intelligence Committee established a Working Group to determine the most efficient means of dealing with the procurement, exploitation, and referencing of foreign language publications. The report of the Working Group was submitted in October 1952. The recommendations of the Group were the basis of NSCID-16, which was approved by the NSC on 7 March 1953. To assist the DCI in implementing NSCID-16, the IAC approved the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications. The Committee is composed of representatives of the IAC agencies and can invite other interested agencies to sit with it on matters which concern them. The chairman is provided by the CIA.

Organization of the Committee

The Committee's responsibilities included providing advice and guidance on the procurement, exploitation, and referencing of foreign language publications. In accord with these responsibilities, three functional subcommittees were established. The Procurement Subcommittee coordinates the collection of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes. The Exploitation Subcommittee coordinates the preparation and dissemination of English-language excerpts, summaries, abstracts, and compilations from foreign language publications. The Reference Subcommittee coordinates the development and maintenance of indexes, accession lists, and reference services regarding foreign language publications.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Accomplishments

A. Main Committee

When the Department of State was required to curtail its Publication Procurement Program for budgetary reasons, this gap in acquisition of intelligence information was identified by the Committee. As a result, the Foreign Branch of the CIA library was augmented so that the DCI could properly discharge his responsibility under NSCID-16 for the coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes.

B. Procurement Subcommittee

During its first year of operation, the Procurement Subcommittee reached agreement for an inventory of USSR serial publications; for the preparation of area dossiers for IAC field collectors, such dossiers to include selected information on book trade organizations and practices, lists of bookstores with their specialties and personnel, libraries and librarians, prices, payment methods, accounting procedures, and export restrictions; and for the pooling of information in the several agencies on domestic sources of foreign publications to insure full exploitation of that market prior to field collection.

At present, all collection guides are under review to insure maximum Washington coordination. Two collection guides have been issued, one for USSR and one for China mainland newspapers and periodicals.

C. Exploitation Subcommittee

Interagency agreement has been reached on the requirements for the exploitation of USSR non-scientific publications. This exercise brought out a number of apparent duplications of effort in the community.

The new system should insure a minimum of duplication among the agencies.

A similar coordinated effort has been carried out for the USSR scientific literature and the publications originating in Communist China, Poland, 25X6A Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Albania, Bulgaria, East Germany, [REDACTED] Korea, and Yugoslavia.

D. Reference Subcommittee

Inventories of lexical materials for the Chinese, Polish, 25X6A Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Byelorussian, Hungarian, Czech, Rumanian, Russian, [REDACTED] languages have been prepared in response to requests from IAC training facilities and the National Security Agency. The expertise of OCD/CIA was brought to bear on the development of subject and area indexes of Air Force documents in order to assist the Air Force to devise a library system adaptable to machine techniques. Several unique intelligence collections, files, and indexes have been found and recorded for reference purposes. A Union Catalog of IAC-held USSR monographs has been assembled in CIA for common reference use. The subcommittee has also been a forum for the discussion of the library problems of all participating agencies.

Future Plans

The Advisory Committee plans to submit proposals for the exploitation of the linguistic talents of Chinese Nationalists stranded in the United States. Among the proposals to be considered will be the establishment of a "China House" in Washington where, through appropriate cut-outs, uncleared Chinese will receive the requirements of the intelligence community for the exploitation of unclassified Chinese language documents. Thus, our limited facilities for classified translation and exploitation will be freed of the burden of newspaper and periodical surveillance.

The three subcommittees will continue to identify and solve problems associated with foreign language publications.